

December 23, 1971

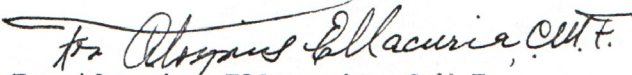
My dear Katherine,

Extending to you my best wishes for a blessed Christmas, heavily laden with every grace from Heaven, and for a happy, healthy and holy New Year.

In my last letter to you I was telling you that I have found a perfect convent for the Sisters, the Daughters of Saint Anthony Mary Claret. The lady who owns this convent is very good to us, and is favoring us above other buyers, some of whom have ready cash. However, this good lady has great debts of her own, and needs \$40,000.00 before the end of January, to pay for her hospital bills and for her new house. If we are unable to produce this much money, she will "swerve" to the other buyers who can meet these terms. If you could send \$20,000.00 instead of \$10,000.00, this would help so much and would be half of the necessary amount to secure the convent. If I lose this convent, the order will be lost. This request means more to me than any other time. The Bishop of this Diocese has given his permission most willingly for the Sisters to come here at the beginning of July. I hope that this may take place. In the meantime, the problem is money. Please do all you can to help purchase this convent, because at this point, we could lose all hope of ever having the order start over here in Fátima, if we lose this wonderful convent. There are no other convents comparable to this one in quality and in price. Also, it is very near to the Basilica. The name of the Sisters, Daughters of Saint Anthony Mary Claret, is already chartered in the United States for tax-deduction purposes. Checks written to any Portuguese banks are tax-free, but to American banks in Portugal the tax is about 18%. Personal checks are fine, and then the letter could be registered.

I will be staying in Fátima until this urgent matter is settled. God bless you, my dear Katherine, and reward you for your great generosity to your future order of Sisters, Daughters of Saint Anthony Mary Claret.

In the Immaculate Heart of Mary,


Fr. Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.